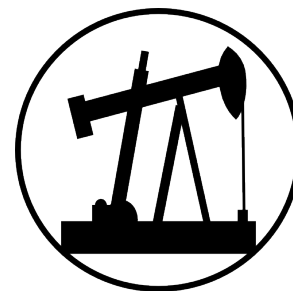




NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 250

October 2011

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.
Opening Hours: Monday: 10am to 3pm
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3pm
 Saturday: 10am to 12 noon
Computer Group: every third Sunday every 2nd month at 1:30pm at the Branch Rooms
 Open to everyone - \$2 door charge. Convenor – Bruce Bellini



Inside History is a new magazine that the branch has decided to subscribe to. It covers Australian and New Zealand genealogy, history and heritage. Look for it soon at the branch rooms.

The branch is keen to subscribe to magazines that are of interest to members. If you know of a magazine that would be useful, please contact Charles Le Breton.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tues 4 Oct 2011

Scandinavian Research

This month, Bruce Bellini will be explaining how to research family history in the Scandinavian countries.

Bruce is a well known branch member, and convenor of the New Plymouth genealogy computer group.

Over the last century or two, there have been many immigrants to New Zealand from Scandinavia, so it is quite likely you will have one or two in your tree. Come along and learn how to research ancestors from this part of the world.



Convenor:
Secretary: Fay Eaton 751 1045
Treasurer: John Berntsen 753 9188

Committee: Judy Berntsen
 Anne Brophy
 Charles Le Breton
 Ailsa McCrone
 Bev Mulqueen

New Plymouth Branch
 PO Box 429
 New Plymouth 4340

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre access off Whiteley Street carpark

Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last Meeting – Tuesday 6 September 2011

Our September meeting was well-attended to hear a very informative talk from Ruth Harvey, curator of Puke Ariki's pictorial collection. She has a big job, with approximately 350,000 items, mostly photographic, in the museum's collections. The Swainson/Woods photographic collections are valuable and well-loved, Ruth said.

File cards for 15,000 items can be searched at the Research Centre. Some of the collection are not catalogued, but if necessary Ruth or Kate may be able to help you. It is possible to go into Puke Ariki to view an image that you think might be yours, but bear in mind this can take a very busy staff some time to help you. Once digitisation is done, identification will become a much easier process.

A collection of 255,000 negatives from 1923-1997 makes this one of the biggest in New Zealand housed in a public place. At present there is a searchable database of 98,000 items online, but no images.

There has so far been funding from lottery and TET for the restoration work being done on the photographs. Future funding will be necessary in order to digitise the images.

The work so far has been in cleaning, cataloguing, and re-housing the negatives. The latter has meant putting the negatives in acid-free enclosures.

Appraisal of the negatives by an expert has meant a small fraction (about 400 items) of the collection has had to be got rid of as some items were beyond saving. Ruth talked of the dangerous nature of items from the 1930s and 1940s that were nitrate film.

Also, some culling may have been done if there are a number of images of the same person. When a negative was ordered, Swainson marked it. This is a guide for staff now as to the best image to keep.

Since 2005, some of the images have been show-cased in various exhibitions at Puke Ariki. Also selected images are being published as the Daily News' Photo of the Week. The latter medium has been useful by enabling members of the public to identify people and places in the photos. Also there are TET exhibitions around various towns in Taranaki with 50 images rotating

on screens. These are changed every two months. This also gives a chance for people to view and identify the subjects. [Flickr](#), a photo-sharing website also has items from the collection on it.

www.flickr.com/photos/pukeariki/

Ruth talked about the labour-intensive job of digitising the photographs. It could take 4 staff about 3 years to do this and will depend on outside funding. About one third of the collection is in colour and this raises separate problems.

The online database for the Heritage Collection is useful for dating one's own photos. The site can be searched by putting in a surname. You may have to try various alternative spellings.

COPYRIGHT

Ruth also touched on the subject of copyright.

Photos are automatically covered by copyright. The copyright belongs to the people in the photos. Publishing without permission infringes copyright. Copyright for photos taken before 1944 has expired. Otherwise, in most cases, copyright expires 50 years after the death of the photographer.

Commercial photographers often enter into some sort of contract with the people whose photos are being taken, eg. wedding photos. This is typically to give the photographer exclusive copyright in the photos.

For information on copyright, grab a handout from the side table at our library or go to;

www.copyright.org.nz

www.med.govt.nz/templates/Page_7290.aspx

Annette Larsen



DNA Testing for Genealogy Research

Have you used DNA testing to help with your family history research? We're seeking to compile some practical experience on this and information on how to get best value out of it. If you have used DNA testing, please contact a branch committee member.



From the Caretaker Convenor

This month has been very quiet. Late last month the Research Room at Puke Ariki presented us with a Family Tree of the Collingwood family. We have to find somewhere to hang it.

We have ordered some more of the Family History Notebooks. They will sell at \$9 each.

We are still looking for a magazine to subscribe to. I was thinking of either Family Tree, US 2 monthly, or Australian Family Tree Connections, monthly. Any ideas please let Charles Le Breton know.

Last month we had Ruth Harvey from Puke Ariki, and she gave us a talk on the photo collection that our branch rescued and what she knew on copyright. Also Ann Marie Stachurski gave a small talk on a service she is offering, concerning proofreading family history books. So if you are producing a family book and can't find someone to check it, give Ann Marie a ring on 027 4422137 or email annmarie.s@xtra.co.nz.

We have subscribed to Inside History, a magazine put out by an Australian firm and has a NZ content. Our first issue will be No. 6 which we should get within a week or so. It is printed bimonthly.

This month our own Bruce Bellini is talking on his research and next month we have Vicki Price talking on her search for topics she is writing on.

That's all for now, hope you all have a good month researching and writing your family history books.

I nearly forgot to welcome our new member Graeme Kenyon from Auckland. We hope to see you at a meeting one day.

John Berntsen

Next Month

Next month's meeting is on Tuesday 1 November, when our guest speaker will be Vicki Price, historical writer for the Daily News.

My Auckland Fencible Research

Recently I got up to Auckland to do some more research on my Fencible family. The Sutherland family came out on the Ramillies in 1847 and first were settled in Onehunga before moving to the Drury area seven years later.

My first port of call was the wonderful Papakura museum and archive, situated in the main street of Papakura. (See [their website](#).) The volunteers at the archive were very helpful and friendly and I spent a few hours there, a very happy researcher. If you have research in the Papakura/Drury area, this place is a must to visit.

One of the results of this visit was that the staff gave me an address of an Australian who is researching a branch of my Sutherland family. We have already made email contact.

I also visited the Anglican church of St John's, Drury, which was established in 1860. I walked round the graveyard, aware that my great-great grandparents were buried in an unmarked grave somewhere under the expanse of lawn. Photos of the lovely old church and cemetery were worth taking, however. The church itself was locked, but there is still a service held there on Sundays at 7pm. Maybe one day I'll be able to get to that! I would have loved to have had a peek inside.

The next visit was to Jellicoe Park, Onehunga, where the Onehunga Fencible and Historical Society has its headquarters in the historic blockhouse. (This was built in 1860 for the military and as a safe haven for the women and children in the event of a Maori attack.) The buildings are only open on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Again, check out [the website](#) and information on the internet.

In the old blockhouse is a growing archive of information relating to the Fencibles and Onehunga's past. One of the things I found particularly useful was a very large and clear map showing the location of the early Fencible cottages. Armed with this precise information, I was able to find the spot on the corner of Grey St and Victoria St, Onehunga where my great-great grandparents, Alexander and Elizabeth lived all those years ago. Only a large tree graces the corner section today.

Jellicoe Park has other buildings to explore. Laishley House was built in 1856 as the Manse for the Rev. Richard Laishley, the first minister of the Congregational Church. It was moved to



Jellicoe Park in 1985.

There is also a replica of an 1847 Fencible cottage complete with period furniture etc. It was a thrill to see my great-great grandfather's name on a list on the wall when I walked in.

The Fencible cottages were double units with two rooms downstairs and an attic bedroom. The children apparently slept in the attic. I found the steep steps up to the attic a bit daunting. Candles were of course banned up there because of the fire risk.

The other part of this replica cottage has been furnished with later Victorian pieces. All very well done. Out of the 32 double unit cottages built in 1847 for the Fencibles there are only about two left in Onehunga.

The last place I paid a visit to in Onehunga was the old St Peter's church graveyard. My long weekend of research was over, but further visits to Auckland are planned. Still have things on my "To Do" list!

Annette Larsen

Book Review: Bound for Canterbury – 2000 NZSG Conference

This is not a new book but new to NP NZSG library thanks to Merv Smith.

I have not had much interest in such publications in past but have to say was quite impressed with content this time.

40 articles some now dated provide much interesting reading. Content as could be expected is in some cases Canterbury connected. This may not of interest to some people but there is enough to interest all. Book list on pages 1 - 11 presents a short description of what appears to be many interesting volumes for further research. Several articles on what is available on wider range of local church records could be of interest for people looking for story fillers as were articles on likes of "Shipboard diaries" and social history stuff like "How did Europe cope with the first millennium".

There is also the usual range of helpful hints. Perhaps old hat to some but of great interest to newer researchers and a good reminder to the more established. A great read and highly recommended.

Chas Le Breton

Book Review: Allan Hubbard a man out of time

I have just finished the book ALLAN HUBBARD a man out of time. 430 pages of very easy reading. It was published late 2010 and is a great read about a NZ man who was tragically killed in a car accident last month. He was born during the depression in Dunedin in March 1928 into a poor family with a drunken father and an illiterate mother.

It is amazing how this man built up his wealth to become the richest person in the South Island before his empire crashed in 2010 when it became too big for him and his wife to keep the hand written records of all the transactions.

He could have bought anything with his money but chose to give away most of it and lived frugally.

I have one copy that anyone is welcome to borrow from me. email spick@xtra.co.nz

John Pickering

Library News

Magazines received;
Family Tree, Memories



Newsletters received;
Blenheim, Hutt Valley, Otaki, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wellington

Computer Group

The New Plymouth GCG meeting was held on Sunday 18 September. Lea Bellini shared some new and very useful discoveries she made with the recent free access that ancestry.com provided to their shipping lists.



The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 20 November 2011, at the branch rooms.

Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at peter.hewett@gmail.com.

